What is claimed is:

1. A device management system comprising:

a section for connecting a network device so that it can communicate with the system, and wherein:

5   when device information regarding said network device is received, functions available to said network device are determined based on said device information, and, based on the determination, a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with a function is sent to

10   said network device.

2.   A device management system which connects a network device with a device management terminal that manages said network device so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

15   said device management terminal including a module storing section for storing a function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with functions, a device information receiving section for receiving device information regarding said network device, a function determining section

20   for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading said function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module

25   storing section, and a module sending section for sending said

function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device, and

said network device including a device information storing section for storing said device information, a device information sending section for sending said device information stored by said device information storing section to said device management terminal, a module receiving section for receiving said function provision module, and a module executing section for executing the function provision module received by said module receiving section.

3. The device management system according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of said network devices are connected so that they can communicate with the system, and

said function provision module is a module that realizes a function that is provided by at least two of said network devices working in combination.

4. The device management system according to Claim 3, wherein said network device includes a device information acquisition section for obtaining device information for another network device other than itself from that network device among said plurality of network devices, and

wherein said device information sending section sends device information stored in said device information storing

section and device information obtained by said device

information acquisition section to said device management

terminal.

5.   The device management system according to Claim 4, wherein

said device management terminal includes a function

selecting section that allows a user to select one or more of

the functions corresponding to the function provision module

determined by said function determining section, and

wherein said module reading section reads out a function

provision module that corresponds to a function selected by the

function selecting section from said module storing section.

6.   The device management system according to Claim 4, wherein

said network device includes a function selecting section

that allows a user to select one or more of the functions

corresponding to the function provision module determined by

said function determining section, and

wherein said module reading section reads out a function

provision module that corresponds to a function selected by said

function selecting section from said module storing section.

7.   The device management system according to Claim 6, wherein

said function selecting section generates a GUI screen on

which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding

to the function provision module determined by said function
determining section and presents the GUI screen to the user so
that the user can select one or more of the functions.

5   8.   The device management system according to Claim 6, wherein
            said device management terminal includes a selection
interface generating section for generating a selection
interface through which one can select one or more of the functions
corresponding to function provision module determined by said
10   function determining section, and
            wherein said function selecting section presents the
selection interface generated by said selection interface
generating section to the user so that the user can select one
or more of the functions.

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       9.   The device management system according to Claim 6, wherein
            said network device includes a selection interface
generating section for generating a selection interface through
which one can select one or more of the functions corresponding
20   to function provision module determined by said function
determining section, and
            wherein said function selecting section presents the
selection interface generated by said selection interface
generating section to the user so that the user can select one
25   or more of the functions.

10. The device management system according to Claim 9, wherein

said device information includes device type identification

information that identifies the type of said network device,

5 and

wherein said function determining section determines a

function provision module that has a function available to said

network device based on a function registration table that stores

functions associated with said device type identification

10 information.

11. The device management system according to Claim 10, wherein

said device type identification information is a device

type ID that uniquely identifies the type of said network device,

15 and

said function determining section determines a function

provision module that has a function available to said network

device based on a function registration table that stores

functions associated with said device type IDs.

20

12. The device management system according to Claim 11, wherein:

said module storing section stores said function provision

module as associated with user ID,

said device management terminal includes a user ID receiving

25 section for receiving said user ID, a second module reading

section for reading a function provision module corresponding

to a user ID received by said user ID receiving section from

said module storing section, and a second module sending section

for sending said function provision module read by said second

5   module reading section to said network device, and

said network device including a user ID storing section

for storing a user ID, and a user ID sending section for sending

the user ID stored in said user ID storing section to said device

management terminal.

10

13. The device management system according to Claim 12, wherein:

said device management terminal includes a provision

limiting section for limiting provision of a function provision

module, and

15   wherein said provision limiting section prevents a function

provision module that has been once provided to said network

device based on said user ID from being provided for a re-access

based on the same user ID.

20 14. The device management system according to Claim 12, wherein

said device management terminal includes a provision

limiting section for limiting provision of a function provision

module, and

wherein said provision limiting section defines the

25 provision range of function provision module for each of said

user ID, and prevents provision of a function provision module that has been provided to the network device based on said user ID beyond the provision range defined for the user ID.

5   15.   A device management terminal connected to a network device so that it can communicate with the network device, comprising

a module storing section for storing function provision module that is applied to said network device to provide it with functions, a device information receiving section for receiving

10   device information regarding said network device, a function determining section for determining a function provision module that has a function available to said network device based on said device information received by said device information receiving section, a module reading section for reading the

15   function provision module determined by said function determining section from said module storing section, and a module sending section for sending said function provision module read by said module reading section to said network device.

20   16.   A network device connected to a device management terminal so that they can communicate with each other, comprising

a device information storing section for storing the device information regarding a network device, a device information sending section for sending the device information stored by

25   said device information storing section to said device management

terminal, a module receiving section for receiving a function

provision module that is applied to the network device to provide

it with a function, and a module executing section for executing

the function provision module received by said module receiving

5   section.

17.   A programmable computer that is connected to a network device

so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program

10   for causing said computer to execute processing that is realized

as a device information receiving section for receiving device

information regarding said network device, a function

determining section for determining a function provision module

that has a function available to said network device based on

15   said device information received by said device information

receiving section, a module reading section for reading the

function provision module determined by said function

determining section from said module reading section, and a module

sending section for sending said function provision module read

20   by said module reading section to said network device.

18.   A programmable computer that is connected to a network device

so that they can communicate with each other, comprising:

said computer having a memory containing a terminal program

25   causing said computer to execute processing that is realized

as a device information sending section for sending device
information stored by a device information storing section to
a device management terminal, a module receiving section for
receiving a function provision module that is applied to the
5   computer to provide it with a function, and a module executing
section for executing the function provision module received
by said module receiving section.

19. A device management method for connecting a network device
10   so that it can communicate and managing said network device,
comprising:

     when device information regarding said network device is
received, functions available to said network device are
determined based on the device information, and based on the
15   determination, a function provision module that is applied to
said network device to provide it with a function is sent to
said network device.